IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.

09/975,423

Confirmation No.: 9084

Applicant

William B. Noble, et al.

Filed

: October 11, 2001

T.C./A.U.

: 2143

Examiner

: Joseph E. Avellino

Docket No. : RTN-138PUS

Customer No.: 33164

<u>AMENDMENT</u>

MS RCE Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated April 18, 2006 and subsequent Advisory Action dated July 25, 2006, please consider the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.